



Enterprise Business Awards Luncheon

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Good afternoon, everyone.

I've had the privilege of hearing Lee Greenwood sing before, but each time is special, and – whether it's "Where the Stars and Stripes and Eagle Fly," or "God Bless the USA," he makes us all proud to be Americans, doesn't he?

And I'm also proud to be an Arizonan, where passage of Proposition 100 on Tuesday signifies that the Arizona Comeback has started in earnest.

And, I don't have to tell you – a room full of small business award winners – that it's all about jobs.

When I meet with companies looking to locate and expand in Arizona, they want to know about the quality of our workforce – about the quality of our education system – and they want to know their employees will be safe and enjoy a quality life.

I know you business owners who are here today want the same thing.

We ARE growing our economy, we ARE creating new job opportunities – and we ARE helping Arizona businesses excel.

To accomplish this -- I am restructuring our State's approach to economic development.

I am focusing the Commerce Department Commerce – with Commerce Director Don Cardon, business leaders like Jerry Colangelo and Roy Vallee, on creating an aggressive authority so that Arizona better competes in the global market and wins more projects creating quality jobs for Arizonans.

Last week, I launched my Tourism Taskforce to address misguided interpretations and calls for boycotts. I intend to protect our Arizona businesses.

I have also launched a Jobs Action Team – Commerce -- State Land -- the Departments of Environmental Quality and Revenue – are all working together to cut through red tape and speed what has been a slow government process.

I am committing ten million dollars of my discretionary funding -- through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 -- to establish a Job Training Assistance Program; and I am pursuing a combination of regulatory and tax reforms.

For the long-term, we're re-thinking areas of our tax structure that unduly burden our employers -- particularly those requiring large capital investments, such as manufacturing.

Arizona is making great strides in its approach to renewable energy – especially in solar.

Last summer, I signed legislation creating the renewable energy tax incentive program. Companies are interested -- and they are coming to Arizona.

I am focused on Small Business – Entrepreneurs, and especially the areas of Science and Technology, Aerospace and Defense, and Renewable Energy – like Solar.

We must retain and secure new quality jobs for Arizonans and preserve and restore Arizona's economic health.

Our unemployment rate announced this morning stands at nine-point-five percent.

We gained 19,500 jobs last month – year over year, we are still down, but the rate of job loss is slowing.

Those of you here today represent Arizona's foundation – entrepreneurs who have persevered some of the toughest times in this state's history.

We are investing in our PEOPLE to make sure they have the skills to compete in these new jobs.

When we get a company landed here, we get them up and operating quicker, creating jobs sooner by making sure our people are prepared with the latest skills to go to work for them.

And, finally, we are restoring fiscal stability, starting with balancing the state budget and resolving the deficit while protecting education and public safety.

I thank you all for being a part of the Arizona comeback, I congratulate each of the award winners and nominees here today – and I am proud of all that you have achieved.

Thank you.